

Name Change for Adults (Part 1)

Hi. I'm A.J., named after my parents' favorite writer. I'm keeping my name, but maybe you're considering adopting a new one. If that's true, and you're an adult, you're in the right place. If you're looking to change the name of a child, check out part 2 of this series.

I'll explain the name change process step-by-step and review the Maryland court forms you'll need. There's also a tricky publication process, but don't worry. I've got instructions on that step. I'll be as detailed as possible so the process can be a smooth one for you.

You can also *informally* change your name. But I'm not addressing that. I'm here to talk only about the process of formally or legally changing your name.

The first form is a Petition for Change of Name for an adult or form CC-DR-060. Complete this form with details about why you want to change your name. Attach documents with your current name. Maybe use a copy of your birth certificate or your driver's license. Also attach copies of documents that officially change your name, like a marriage certificate. File them with the circuit court in the county where you live and pay the filing fees. You can find all the name change forms online at mdcourts.gov/namechange.

But you're not done yet. You also need to complete and file two more forms. First, there's a Notice for Publication or form CC-DR-061. The second one is a Certificate of Publication, or form CC-DR-075. This is that publication step I warned you about earlier.

A notice of your request to change your name must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where you live. This step gives other people a chance to object to your name change. For this step, be sure to check with the circuit court clerk for details. In some jurisdictions, you are responsible for making publication arrangements. In other circuit courts, the clerk arranges publication. There is one thing consistent in all courts, though. You pay for publication.

In very special circumstances, you can ask the court to waive or substitute the publication requirement. This is another step that differs by jurisdiction, so you definitely want to check with the clerk in your circuit court. That person can guide you about filing a Motion for Waiver of Publication or form CC-DR-114.

After the notice has been published, attach a copy to the Certificate of Publication and submit it to the court. If the clerk arranged publication for you, then you may not have to do this step. If you get an objection in your case, watch part 4 of this series, *Objecting to a Name Change*.

If no one objects, the judge may still have questions and schedule a hearing. If not, and you completed all steps properly, the judge will sign an Order for Name Change. The court mails you a certified copy which you can use to change your name. You'll want to use this document to change your name in multiple places: on your driver's license, with the Division of Vital Records, and with the Social Security Administration, banks, creditors, and other places where you do business.

There are just a couple of things that are important to remember:

Narration: File a Petition for Change of Name or form CC-DR-060 in a circuit court. You must also complete a publication step. The clerk can give you more information on that.

So that's it. You can always get more help at mdcourts.gov/namechange.